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## Letter from the President

Lyle Anderson

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Lyle Anderson

## Letter from the President

It was my privilege to attend a conference of officers of science teacher associations for thirty-two states this summer and to see what other associations are doing. Most are facing the same problems we have here in Iowa—developing a means of communication between members, providing leadership in curriculum improvement, improving teacher preparation programs, increasing means of cooperation with industry, improving associations and bonds with the institutions of higher education, providing means for in-service growth of teachers, and organizing state and regional workshops, conventions, and conferences that will help solve some of the other problems. I hope that

during this next year we can get underway with some new programs which will begin to solve some of these problems.

Any organization is as strong as its membership. We cannot be the association for science teachers in Iowa unless we are constantly re-evaluating our role as an active professional group with specific objectives. Any set of officers has uphill sledding without a responsible, expressive, and active membership. It seems to me that if ISTA is to exert an influence and be a factor in the improvement of science instruction in the state of Iowa, that we need to work together as a single group of dedicated professional human beings. It is easy to sit back and to criticize **this** aspect of the organization, **that** activity of the organization in the past, or the peculiarities of **this** person in the organization. Instead of "bench warmers" we need active players on our science education team!

I hope that we can accomplish much during my term as your president of our Iowa Science Teachers' Association. There are many who can often find fault with science teachers and science teaching in the state. Unfortunately these people have offered little to the improvement for which ISTA professes to stand. We invite our critics to join with us in our attempts to improve, to communicate, and to leave a mark upon our state. We have a greater voice if we are united in a single voice for progress.

I believe that we have never had a better chance to make some real accomplishments in science education in Iowa. Never before have we received so much assistance from Iowa colleges, industries, science societies, and the various levels of government. All we need now is an identified group of teachers ready to claim some of the fruits that can be gained from a truly professional association.

Lyle Anderson, President  
Iowa Science Teachers' Association

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## NEW MEMBERS

Lindy Solon of Ames is our ISTA membership chairman. He is planning a fall and winter campaign to increase our membership by one hundred percent by spring. He is

calling all ISTA members to action as they each secure one additional active member.

Mr. Solon makes the following comments; "The pressure is now upon